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10/092,709	03/07/2002	Susan Crouse-Kemp	13742.104	2530

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EXAMINER

WON, MICHAEL YOUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,709

Applicant(s)

CROUSE-KEMP ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Y. Won

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed February 23, 2006.
2. Claims 1-7, 9, 13-18, 21, and 23 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-24 have been examined and are pending with this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: interface means, object registrar means, media asset means, registrar identification means, media asset means, and signature server means. Although the claim recites numerous means, the elements lack any relationship among each other as to determine a flow of information from the "interface means" through other means in the "registration system".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kahn et al. (US 6,135,646 A).

INDEPENDENT:

As per ***claim 1***, Kahn teaches a registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:

interface means for receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system (see col.8, lines 15-19);

object registrar means for registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length (see col.8, lines 58-65 and col.10, lines 59-60), comprising:

media asset means for generating an object payload comprising object-specific information,

registrar identification means for inserting a digital code that identifies said registration system, and

media asset identification means for assigning a registrar-specific digital code to uniquely identify said received object (see col.11, lines 6-15).

signature server means, responsive to a request for an object received from a subscriber, for verifying the subscriber's authorization to receive the requested object (see col.22, lines 29-31 & 49-67 and col.23, lines 6-23);

global interface registrar means, responsive to said request for an object received from said signature server means (see col.23, lines 48-50), for identifying said object registrar means as the repository of said requested object (see col.23, line 65-col.24, line 3 and col.24, lines 25-33); and

network means, responsive to said request for an object received from said signature server means, for transmitting said requested object to said signature server means for deliver to said subscriber (implicit: see col.24, lines 34-39 and col.28, lines 14-19).

As per **claim 7**, Kahn teaches a method of operating a registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising the steps of:

receiving data, comprising an object, at an object registration system (see col.8, lines 15-19);

registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length (see col.8, lines 58-65 and col.10, lines 59-60), comprising:

generating an object payload comprising object-specific information,
inserting a digital code that identifies said registration system, and
assigning a registrar-specific digital code to uniquely identify said received object (see col.11, lines 6-15); and

verifying, in responsive to said request for an object received from a subscriber and in a signature server, the subscriber's authorization to receive the requested object (see col.22, lines 29-31 & 49-67 and col.23, lines 6-23);

identifying, in response to said request for an object received from said signature server (see col.23, lines 48-50), said object registration system as the repository of said requested object (see col.23, line 65-col.24, line 3 and col.24, lines 25-33); and

transmitting, in response to receipt of said request for an object received from said signature server, said requested object to said signature server for deliver to said subscriber (implicit: see col.24, lines 34-39 and col.28, lines 14-19).

As per **claim 13**, Kahn teaches a registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:

interface means for receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system (see col.8, lines 15-19);

object registrar means for registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length (see col.8, lines 58-65 and col.10, lines 59-60), comprising:

media asset identification means for generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of immutable data (see Fig.6 and col.11, lines 6-8), and

media asset means for generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of dynamic data comprising object-specific information that can vary during the existence of said object;

signature server means, responsive to a request for an object received from a subscriber, for verifying the subscriber's authorization to receive the requested object (see col.22, lines 29-31 & 49-67 and col.23, lines 6-23);

global interface registrar means, responsive to said request for an object received from said signature server means (see col.23, lines 48-50), for identifying said object registrar means as the repository of said requested object (see col.23, line 65-col.24, line 3 and col.24, lines 25-33); and

network means, responsive to said request for an object received from said signature server means, for transmitting said requested object to said signature server means for deliver to said subscriber (implicit: see col.24, lines 34-39 and col.28, lines 14-19).

As per **claim 19**, Kahn teaches a method of operating a registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication

network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:

receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system (see col.8, lines 15-19);

registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length (see col.8, lines 58-65; col.10, lines 59-60; and col.11, lines 6-12), comprising:

generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of immutable data (see Fig.6 and col.10, lines 50-60: "should be essentially permanent" and col.11, lines), and

generating a segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of dynamic data comprising object-specific information that can vary during the existence of said object (see Fig.6 and col.11, line 10-12: "timestamp").

DEPENDENT:

As per **claims 2 and 8**, which depend on claims 1 and 7, respectively, Kahn further teaches wherein said object registrar means or step of registering further comprises: means for combining said object payload, said digital code that identifies said registration system, said registrar-specific digital code, each having a predetermined length, in a predetermined order (see Fig.6 and col.11, lines 16-19).

As per **claims 3, 9, 15, and 21**, which depend on claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, respectively, further teaches wherein said object comprises one of a media asset (see

col.13, lines 5-7) and a subscriber application (see col.12, lines 47-50), further comprising:

means for storing said received object in a storage medium for access by subscribers (see col.7, line 67-col.8, line 3; col.11, lines 16-19; and col.12, lines 12-13); and

means for indexing and describing said stored received object using said unique signature identification (see col.8, lines 44-46).

As per **claims 4, 10, 16, and 22**, which depend on claims 3, 9, 13, and 19, respectively, Kahn further teaches wherein said object comprises a media asset (see col.13, lines 5-7), said media asset means comprises *at least one of*:

object expiry means for generating content expiry data that defines a date when said object is no longer available for access by said subscribers (see col.26, lines 26-28);

object rating means for generating a content rating that defines characteristics of a content of said object;

object quality of service means for generating quality of service data; and

object version means for generating version data that identifies a version of said received object.

As per **claims 5, 11, 17, and 23**, which depend on claims 3, 9, 16, and 22, respectively, Kahn further teaches wherein said object comprises a subscriber application (see col.12, lines 47-50), said media asset means comprises *at least one of*:

subscriber ratings means for generating subscriber ratings data;

subscriber permission means for generating subscriber permissions data (see col.11, lines 13-15);

subscriber device identification means for generating subscriber device data; and

subscriber service provider means for generating subscriber service provider identification data.

As per **claims 6, 12, 18, and 24**, which depend on claims 3, 9, 16, and 19, respectively, Kahn teaches of further comprising:

object location means, responsive to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for an object, for identifying an object stored on said storage medium that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query (see col.9, lines 10-18);

subscriber identification means, responsive to receipt of a query from a subscriber where said query includes a unique signature identification for said subscriber, for identifying object access permissions for said subscriber that corresponds to said unique signature identification included in said query (see col.2, lines 31-32 and col.9, lines 44-48); and

network means for retrieving said stored object from said storage medium where said subscriber's object access permissions authorize access (implicit: see col.6, lines 22-24 & 40-43; and col.8, lines 2-3).

As per **claims 14 and 20**, which depend on claims 13 and 19, respectively, further teaches wherein said object registrar means further comprises:

object formatting means for combining said segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of immutable data, said segment of said unique signature identification that comprises a set of dynamic data, each having a predetermined length, in a predetermined order (see Fig.6 and col.11, lines 16-19).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed February 23, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant(s) argue that U.S. Pat. No. 6,135,646 (*Kahn et al.*) "fails to show or suggest the use of a global interface registrar to mediate among all of the subscribers registrars and contents registrars to enable the interconnection of the subscriber within the requested object, and the delivery of the requested object to the subscriber if the subscriber's access permission are verified".

In response to the argument above, that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., global interface registrar to mediate among all of the subscribers registrars and contents registrars) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Even if such limitation were recited, *Kahn* further teaches this functionality in column 6, lines 55-62.

For the reasons above claims 1-24 remain rejected and pending.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

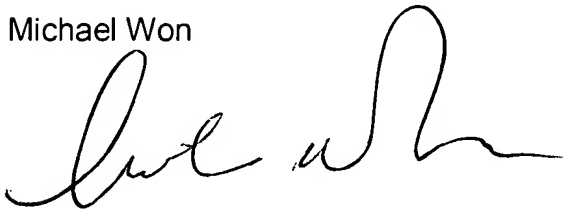
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Won



April 21, 2006



SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER